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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/720,777	11/24/2003	John A. McMorris III	35539	4925
39313 7590 11/16/2007 CARL M. NAPOLITANO, PH.D. ALLEN, DYER, DOPPELT, MILBRATH & GILCHRIST, P.A. 255 SOUTH ORANGE AVE., SUITE 1401 P.O. BOX 3791 ORLANDO, FL 32802-3791			EXAMINER RIVIERE, HEIDI M	
			ART UNIT 3629	PAPER NUMBER
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/720,777

Applicant(s)

MCMORRIS ET AL.

Examiner

Heidi Riviere

Art Unit

3629

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 November 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-67 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-67 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 November 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date See Continuation Sheet.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

Continuation of Attachment(s) 3). Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08), Paper No(s)/Mail Date :6 October 2004 and 7 January 2005.

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Information Disclosure Statement***

1. The Information Disclosure Statements filed on 6 October 2004 and 7 January 2005 have been considered. Initialed copies of the Form 1449 are enclosed herewith.

### ***Drawings***

2. New corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in this application because the version of drawings presented are too dark. Applicant is advised to employ the services of a competent patent draftsman outside the Office, as the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office no longer prepares new drawings. The corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The requirement for corrected drawings will not be held in abeyance.

### ***Specification***

3. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:  
Missing letter "e" in the headings of pages 1, 11 and 12.

Appropriate correction is required.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

4. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

5. **Claim 1, 6-12, 14, 15, 17-19, 21, 22, 24-26, 27, 28, 31-35, 40-42, 44, 46, 50-55, 57-61, 63, 64, 66-67** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

The applicant's specification does not adequately disclose sufficient guidance and direction to enable one of skilled in the art to make or use the Applicant's invention. For example, in claim 1, the applicant refers to the steps of *selecting a production practice of the producer, selecting a protocol applicable with the production practice, converting the production practice data to environmental data using pre-selected conversion factors, converting the environmental data to an emission reduction unit for a transferring thereof*. Referring back to the written description of the invention, Applicant fails to provide sufficient direction or working examples of: what defines the protocol selected? How is it determined? What formula(s) is/are used to convert the data? What is the emission reduction unit and how is it calculated or is it a physical structure? How is the calculation performed? The applicant has provided no

formulas with which the applicant performs the calculation. Also, the applicant has not defined what an emission reduction unit is:

More guidance is necessary in the present application based on Applicant's own disclosure stating "[u]nfortunately, standards for serialization and registration are sketchy and inconsistent" (Specification: page 3). Despite this statement Applicant fails to provide sufficient guidance and direction regarding the claimed invention. Instead the written description is replete with generalizations hence failing to provide specific direction.

6. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

7. **Claims 1, 6, 11-12, 14-15, 17-19, 21, 22, 24-26, 28, 31, 32, 34, 40-42, 44, 46, 50, 51, 57-61, 63, 64, 67** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Applicant fails to describe the term "unit" with adequate detail. In the written description as in the claims this term is mentioned but not defined. Therefore, it remains unclear whether the mentioned term is a conversion factor as implied in claim 1 or potential a production unit literally used to reduce emissions as implied in claim 6, for example. As a result, in the present analysis unit will be assessed as a production unit literally used to reduce emissions.

8. **Claims 7, 9, 10, 13, 20, 30, 32, 34, 39, 43, 51, 54, 56** are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Applicant fails to adequately point out and describe what production practice or production practice data are referred to in the claims. There are many types of productions and production practices as well as data related to and obtained from production. Further clarity is required.

Furthermore in **claims 9 and 10**, Applicant, notes both "data center" and "database". Examiner notes that either a step in the method is missing where the production practice data should be transmitted from the "data center" to the "database" and stored or both the "data center" and the "database" are the same item in the method described with different names. In the present analysis both are presumed to be the same item in the method.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101***

9. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

10. **Claims 1-67** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

The invention is directed toward a method of tracking environmental emission reductions. However, for a claimed invention to be statutory, the

claimed invention must produce a useful, concrete, and tangible result. "Usefulness" may be evidenced by, but not limited to, a specific utility of the claimed invention. "Concreteness" may be evidenced by, but not limited to, repeatability and/or implementation without undue experimentation. "Tangibility" may be evidenced by, but not limited to, a real or actual effect.

In the present case, the independent claims do not provide specific results that are repeatable and predictable. Thus, because many of the limitations replete with generalities there will be a different result every time this invention is practiced. Therefore, the applicant's invention is not capable of providing concrete results as required by 35 U.S.C. 101 since it would be difficult for a person to repeat the analysis and obtain the same results based on the lack of concreteness.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

11. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

12. **Claims 1-67** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Sandor et al. (US 2002/0246190 A1)** (hereinafter "**Sandor**") in view of **Schomer (US .6,108,617)**.

13. **With respect to claims 1, 32 and 51:** Sandor teaches:



- selecting a production practice of the producer; (page 7, paragraph 89 – fossil fuel combustion source discussed )
- selecting a protocol applicable with the production practice for determining at least one of environmental emissions and environmental emissions removal; (page 2, paragraph 21 – to compute the GHG emissions or emission reduction equivalents, equivalents conform to standard values that facilitate trading between participants)
- collecting production practice data of the producer for a pre-selected time period responsive to the protocol; (page 2, paragraph 21 – activity data collected based on energy consumption)
- converting the production practice data to environmental data using pre-selected conversion factors; (page 2, paragraph 21 – “a factor for converting the activity data to one of the GHG emission or GHG emission conversion equivalents”)
- designating a geographical reference for the producer; (page 3, paragraph 24 – geographic location is one of the factors used)
- converting the environmental data to an emission reduction unit for a transferring thereof; (page 2, paragraph 21 and page 3, paragraph 28 – “a factor for converting the activity data to one of the GHG emission or GHG emission conversion equivalents”; factor is based on selected activity unit) and

While Sandor does not teach, Schomer discloses:

- assigning an identifier to the emission reduction unit, wherein the identifier includes a sequence portion characterizing a succession thereof and a vintage portion characterizing the pre-selected time period for the production practice, and a characterizing portion characterizing at least one of the geographical reference and the protocol. (col. 5, tables 2 and 3 – various alphanumeric and numeric codes specified)

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the details of the production practice and emission reduction unit of Sandor with the identifier in Schomer because of the need "to provide limited access to the data" (col. 2, lines 45-46).

Furthermore, the data identifying the characterizing portion in the current and following claims is non-functional descriptive data.

Descriptive material can be characterized as either "functional descriptive material" or "nonfunctional descriptive material." Exemplary "functional descriptive material" consists of data structures and computer programs, which impart functionality when employed as a computer component. "Nonfunctional descriptive material" includes but is not limited to music, literary works and a compilation or mere arrangement of data.

When presented with a claim comprising descriptive material, an Examiner must determine whether the claimed nonfunctional descriptive material should be given patentable weight. The Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) must

consider all claim limitations when determining patentability of an invention over the prior art. *In re Gulack*, 703 F.2d 1381, 1385, 217 USPQ 401,404 (Fed. Cir. 1983). The PTO may not disregard claim limitations comprised of printed matter. See *Gulack*, 703 F.2d at 1384-85, 217 USPQ at 403; see also *Diamond v. Diehr*, 450 U.S. 175, 191, 209 USPQ 1, 10 (1981). However, the examiner need not give patentable weight to descriptive material absent a new and unobvious functional relationship between the descriptive material and the substrate. See *In re Lowry*, 32 F.3d 1579, 1583-84, 32 USPQ2d 1031, 1035 (Fed. Cir. 1994); *In re Ngai*, 367 F.3d 1336, 1338, 70 USPQ2d 1862, 1863-64 (Fed. Cir. 2004). Thus, when the prior art describes all the claimed structural and functional relationships between the descriptive material and the substrate, but the prior art describes a different descriptive material than the claim, then the descriptive material is nonfunctional and will not be given any patentable weight. That is, such a scenario presents no new and unobvious functional relationship between the descriptive material and the substrate.

The Examiner asserts that the data identifying the characterizing portion adds little, if anything, to the claimed acts or steps and thus do not serve as limitations on the claims to distinguish over the prior art. MPEP 2106IV b 1(b) indicates that "nonfunctional descriptive material" is material "that cannot exhibit any functional interrelationship with the way the steps are performed". Any differences related merely to the meaning and information conveyed through data, which does not explicitly alter or impact the steps is non-functional descriptive data. Except for the meaning to the human mind, the data identifying

the selectable options and the information displayed upon selection of the options does not functionally relate to the substrate and thus does not change the steps of the method as claimed. The subjective interpretation of the data does not patentably distinguish the claimed invention.

14. **With respect to claims 2, 36 and 52:** Sandor teaches the limitations cited above. While Sandor does not disclose, Schomer teaches the characterizing portion of the identifier includes at least one of a first field identifying a protocol type, a second field identifying a version of the protocol, and a third field identifying an authority for the protocol. (col. 3, table 1, col. 5, tables 2-3 – various identifiers listed).

15. **With respect to claims 3 and 37:** Sandor teaches the pre-selected time period comprises a calendar year for the production practice by the producer. (page 5, paragraph 72 – baseline emission levels reviewed on a year to year basis among participants)

Furthermore, the data identifying the specific time period in the current and following claims is non-functional descriptive data. See non-functional descriptive data discussion above.

16. **With respect to claims 4, 38 and 53:** Sandor teaches the geographical reference includes a location representative of the production practice. (page 3, paragraph 24 – geographic location is one of the factors used).

Furthermore, the data identifying the geographic reference in the current and following claims is non-functional descriptive data. See non-functional descriptive data discussion above.

17. **With respect to claim 5:** Sandor teaches the location is identified by a longitude and latitude. (page 3, paragraph 24 – geographic location is one of the factors used)

18. **With respect to claim 6:** Sandor teaches the limitations cited above. While Sandor does not disclose, Schomer teaches the emission reduction unit comprises a plurality of emission reduction units resulting from the environmental data converting, and wherein the sequence portion of the identifier includes a range of sequence numbers representing the plurality of emission reduction units. (col. 3, table 1, col. 5, tables 2-3 – various identifiers listed)

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the details of the production practice and emission reduction unit of Sandor with the identifier in Schomer because of the need “to provide limited access to the data” (col. 2, lines 45-46).

Furthermore, the data identifying the details of the identifier in the current and following claims is non-functional descriptive data. See non-functional descriptive data discussion above.

19. **With respect to claims 7, 34 and 54:** Sandor teaches the production practice data converting includes the protocol having conversion factors selected from the group including reducing GHG emissions, providing clean water credits, providing clean air credits, providing soil erosion credits, and certifying animal

welfare. (page 2, paragraph 21 and page 3, paragraph 28 – “a factor for converting the activity data to one of the GHG emission or GHG emission conversion equivalents”; factor is based on selected activity unit).

Furthermore, the data identifying the production practice in the current and following claims is non-functional descriptive data. See non-functional descriptive data discussion above.

20. **With respect to claims 8, 35 and 55:** Sandor teaches the GHG reducing includes a parameter selected from parameters including effluent loading, quantity animals, manure containment storage period, manure containment storage practice, annual animal throughput, flaring volume, flaring efficiencies, gas types and generation rates, and chemical manufacturing efficiencies and emissions. (page 9, paragraphs 105, 107-108 – factors used to generate credits are methods that lead to reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions).

Furthermore, the data identifying the type of GHG reducing in the current and following claims is non-functional descriptive data. See non-functional descriptive data discussion above.

21. **With respect to claim 9:** Sandor teaches transmitting the production practice data to a data center; and receiving the production practice data at the data center; (page 4 paragraphs 52-54 – registry stores emission reduction practices and results).

22. **With respect to claims 10, 39 and 56:** Sandor teaches storing the identifier in a database; storing the production practice data in the database; and correlating the production practice data with the identifier for access thereto.

(page 4 paragraphs 52-54 – registry stores emission reduction practices and results; registry has secure Internet access).

23. **With respect to claims 11 and 57:** Sandor teaches providing a password for accessing the database; accessing the database using the password; providing the identifier of the emission reduction unit; and receiving a status regarding the emission reduction unit. (page 4 paragraphs 52-54 – registry stores emission reduction practices and results; registry has secure Internet access).

24. **With respect to claims 12, 40 and 61:** Sandor teaches at least one of selling, transferring, exchanging, and retiring the emission reduction unit. (page 4, paragraph 56; page 9, paragraph 111 - at year-end emission source must transfer allowances or offsets equal to total emissions).

25. **With respect to claim 13:** Sandor teaches warranting the production practice data by the producer. (page 5, paragraphs 69-70 – rules designate activities and monitor emissions).

26. **With respect to claim 14:** Sandor teaches registering the emission reduction unit. (page 4 paragraphs 52-54 – registry stores emission reduction practices and results).

27. **With respect to claims 15, 41 and 60:** Sandor teaches at least one of verifying a commercial suitability of the environmental emission unit, recording the registering, designating ownership of the environmental emission unit, and monitoring a transaction thereof. (page 4 paragraphs 52-54 – registry stores emission reduction practices and results).

28. **With respect to claim 16:** Sandor teaches the limitations cited above. However, while Sandor does not Schomer teaches the identifier is a serial number. (col. 3, table 1, col. 5, tables 2-3 – various identifiers listed).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the details of the production practice and emission reduction unit of Sandor with the identifier in Schomer because of the need “to provide limited access to the data” (col. 2, lines 45-46).

29. **With respect to claim 17:** Sandor teaches the converting to the emission reduction unit includes at least one of using the emission reduction unit for an environmental offset, a credit, and allowance. (page 2, paragraph 21 and page 3, paragraph 28 – “a factor for converting the activity data to one of the GHG emission or GHG emission conversion equivalents”; factor is based on selected activity unit).

30. **With respect to claim 18:** Sandor teaches the converting to an emission reduction unit includes choosing a registry jurisdiction. (page 5, paragraph 62 – details the information that can be included in the registry such as system products and emission reduction commitments).

31. **With respect to claims 19, 42 and 61:** Sandor teaches assigning a registry designator to the emission reduction unit and correlating the registry designator to the registry jurisdiction. (page 5, paragraph 62 – details the information that can be included in the registry such as system products and emission reduction commitments).



32. **With respect to claims 20, 43 and 62:** Sandor teaches the limitations cited above. However, while Sandor does not Schomer teaches storing the registry designator, identifier, and production practice data; correlating the registry designator with the identifier and the identifier with the production practice data for access thereto. (col. 3, table 1, col. 5, tables 2-3 – various identifiers listed).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the details of the production practice and emission reduction unit of Sandor with the identifier in Schomer because of the need “to provide limited access to the data” (col. 2, lines 45-46).

33. **With respect to claims 21 and 63:** Sandor teaches providing a password for retrieving the registry designator; and receiving a status regarding at least one of the emission reduction unit and the production practice data. (page 4, paragraph 54 – secure Internet access by participants).

34. **With respect to claims 22 and 44:** Sandor teaches transferring the emission reduction unit and providing a transaction verification therewith, wherein the transaction verification includes the identifier of the emission reduction unit. (page 4, paragraph 56; page 9, paragraph 111 - at year-end emission source must transfer allowances or offsets equal to total emissions).

35. **With respect to claims 23, 45 and 65:** Sandor teaches the transaction verification includes a certificate having the identifier carried thereon. (page 4, paragraph 56; page 9, paragraph 111 - at year-end emission source must

transfer allowances or offsets equal to total emissions; verification reports issued).

36. **With respect to claims 24 and 46:** Sandor teaches the identifier provides information regarding the protocol, the pre-selected time period, the geographical reference, and a sequence for the emission reduction unit corresponding to the emission reduction unit transferring. (page 3, paragraph 24 – geographic location is one of the factors used; page 4, paragraph 56; page 9, paragraph 111 - at year-end emission source must transfer allowances or offsets equal to total emissions).

37. **With respect to claim 25:** Sandor teaches establishing a pool of emission reduction units and accessing the pool during a point of sale event for reducing at least a portion of the environmental emissions resulting from the point of sale event. (page 4, paragraphs 59 - 60 – emission allowances sold at auction).

38. **With respect to claim 26:** Sandor teaches transferring the emission reduction unit for offsetting at least a portion of an environmental emission. (page 4, paragraph 56 - at year-end emission source must transfer allowances or offsets equal to total emissions).

39. **With respect to claims 27 and 47:** Sandor teaches the environmental emission results from at least one of an emitter, a plurality of emitters, and a variety of emitters, and wherein the emitter is at least one of a direct emitter and an indirect emitter. (page 7, paragraph 84 – multi sector emissions monitoring).

40. **With respect to claim 28:** Sandor teaches allocating emission reduction units resulting from a plurality of producers controlled by a controlling entity for

offsetting environmental emissions of the controlling entity. (page 9, paragraphs 105-107 – offset project categories include carbon sequestration).

41. **With respect to claim 29:** Sandor teaches environmental emissions removal is selected from a practice group consisting of sequestration, mitigation, and avoidance. (page 9, paragraphs 107-108 – offset project categories include carbon sequestration; mitigation quantities also assessed for individual projects).

42. **With respect to claims 30, 49 and 66:** Sandor teaches recording a time for the production practice data collecting and a geographic location thereof. (page 3, paragraph 24 – geographic location is one of the factors used).

43. **With respect to claims 31, 50 and 67:** Sandor teaches comprising reserving an emission reduction unit having at least one of a pre-selected geographic reference, protocol, and time period. (page 3, paragraph 24 – geographic location is one of the factors used).

44. **With respect to claim 33:** Sandor teaches selecting a protocol applicable with the production practice for quantifying the at least one of the environmental emissions and the environmental emissions removal. (page 2, paragraph 21 and page 3, paragraph 28 – “a factor for converting the activity data to one of the GHG emission or GHG emission conversion equivalents”; factor is based on selected activity unit).

45. **With respect to claim 48:** Sandor teaches allocating at least a portion of the plurality of emission reduction to a producer of environmental emissions for an offsetting thereof. (page 4, paragraph 56 - at year-end emission source must transfer allowances or offsets equal to total emissions).

46. **With respect to claim 58:** Sandor teaches registering at least a portion of the plurality of emission reduction units within a registry jurisdiction for providing a plurality of registered units. (page 5, paragraph 62 – details the information that can be included in the registry such as system products and emission reduction commitments).

47. **With respect to claim 64:** Sandor teaches providing a transaction verification for each of the plurality of registered units transferred out of the registry. (page 9, paragraph 111 – registry accounts have verification reports).

#### ***Other References***

48. Examiner also considered the US patent Soestbergen et al. (2002/0143693 A1) which reads on the limitations documented in independent claims 1, 32 and 51.

## CONCLUSION

49. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Heidi Riviere whose telephone number is 571-270-1831. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:30am-5:00pm EST.; Alternative Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Weiss can be reached on 571-272-6812. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Name: Heidi Riviere

Signature: 

Title: Examiner

Date: 11/8/07 